



NEWS RELEASE

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City Of Kensington Receives USDA Rural Development Grant

Kensington, KS – City of Kensington business leaders and members of the Chamber of Commerce joined USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today in presenting a ceremonial funding check of \$3,850 to the City of Kensington to purchase and install a new early warning storm siren, benefiting over 500 residents. Agency funds will be leveraged with the City's contribution of \$7,150. USDA's funding for the siren is being provided under the Agency's *Community Facilities Program*.

"This USDA program is a tremendous tool to assist rural communities in developing new or enhancing existing facilities for public safety, public service and health care. The benefits of the program through low interest rates and longer than commercially available loan terms can significantly enhance the viability of needed community facility projects," commented State Director Chuck Banks during the presentation.

USDA Rural Development's *Community Facilities Program* is designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, courthouses, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue facilities and equipment, police and emergency vehicles and services, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Grant funds may be available to assist in the economic feasibility of the project.

Through its *Community Facilities Program*, the Department of Agriculture is striving to ensure that such facilities are readily available to all rural communities. Community Facilities Programs utilizes three flexible financial tools to achieve this goal: the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, and the Community Facilities Grant Program.

During today's announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's *Community Facilities Program*, along with the many other USDA Rural Development programs. "Over the past five years alone, the Agency's *Community Facilities Program* has assisted 500,000 rural Kansans and contributing over \$24 million in added community development to the Sunflower State's economy. We should all thank our U.S. Senators and Representatives for supporting this benefit for the entire State," remarked Banks.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, the Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information regarding this program, contact the USDA Rural Development Area office at Hays (785-628-3081), or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.

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